

Today's News - Thursday, December 10, 2009

- A faded movie palace in Oakland, CA - and the surrounding neighborhood - gets a new lease on life.
- Goldberger and Kamin offer their top 10 lists of the best of the year in architecture in NYC and Chicago.
- Concluding "they are wasting their time in a largely fruitless effort to improve architecture in the city," architects on Ottawa's Urban Design Review Panel resign en masse: "We feel like window dressing."
- FOA to close as partners split - rival firms in the offing.
- Move over CN Tower: China's "newest architectural marvel," the Guangzhou TV Tower will rise above all.
- Jerusalem lays out some towering plans of its own: Calatrava's bridge is only a "sign of more modern architecture to come the city's entrance."
- Meanwhile, his Dublin bridge opens just in time for Christmas - a great gift to the city's beleaguered drivers.
- In Silver Lake, CA, a new library gives the neighborhood "an unmistakable, but not over-the-top, symbol to be proud of...prompting the city to be more ambitious in its architecture."
- Heathcote waxes poetic about the waning popularity of the classic British country house, "but a few architects are demonstrating how the country house can still surprise and delight."
- NYC architects take sandwich board advertising to the next level: a pop-up store offering free consultations.
- An eyeful of the Guggenheim Museum's new restaurant: a major departure from its former manifestation, "and an appealing one at that."
- NEA Design Director Maurice Cox garners the Edmund N. Bacon Prize.
- We couldn't resist: Roy Lichtenstein-inspired, seizure-inducing interiors (warning: not for the faint-of-heart).

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A Star is Reborn: Fox Oakland Theater and Oakland School for the Arts: A faded movie palace - and the surrounding neighborhood - gets a new lease on life. -- Architectural Dimensions; ELS Architecture and Urban Design; Starkweather Bondy Architecture [images]- ArchNewsNow

The Ten Most Positive Architectural Events of 2009: ...it has seemed to many New Yorkers as if the economic downturn has allowed us to dodge some major bullets. By Paul Goldberger -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller, Scofidio + Renfro; Janette Sadik-Khan; Mayne/Morphosis; George Ranalli; Michael Sorkin; Renzo Piano; etc. - New Yorker

Best of 2009 in architecture: It was a glorious but surreal year...The best endeavors recovered key aspects of Chicago's past and endowed the city and its suburbs with future landmarks. By Blair Kamin -- Renzo Piano; Jeanne Gang; Andrew Metter/Epstein; Burnham Plan Centennial; Zaha Hadid; Ben van Berkel; Carol Ross Barney/John Fried; Peter Zumthor; Adrian Smith; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Graham Balkany; Walter Gropius; Richard Moe/National Trust for Historic Preservation- Chicago Tribune

Frustrated architects dump Urban Design Review Panel: Hope en masse resignation will 'humiliate' City Hall into designing a better Ottawa...reached the conclusion that they are wasting their time in a largely fruitless effort to improve architecture in the city..."We feel like window dressing." - Canada.com

Foreign Office Architects (FOA) to close as partners split: ...set to cease trading once current schemes are complete.. both are likely to set up rival practices in the UK as well as continue their teaching careers. -- Farshid Moussavi; Alejandro Zaera-Polo- BD/Building Design (UK)

China's newest architectural marvel unveiled: ...another megastructure is set to rise in China that will join the world's greatest engineering and architectural marvels of the modern times..The Guangzhou TV & Sightseeing tower..is not only the world's tallest television tower...but is also said to be one of the most beautiful structures. -- Information Based Architecture (IBA) [image]- The Philippine Star

City plan: Skyscrapers at entrance to Jerusalem: Towers and open square will welcome visitors to capital. Modern depot to combine between light rail, bus, and train...will attract many businesses from Tel Aviv...the Chords Bridge is a sign of more modern architecture to come the city's entrance. -- Yossi Farhi/Doron Tsafir/Farhi-Tsafir- Ynetnews (Israel)

Drivers head for the harp to beat city jams: ...Samuel Beckett bridge in Dublin...designed to be a landmark feature of the city, evoking the image of a harp. -- Santiago Calatrava [image]- Herald.ie (Dublin, Ireland)

Crit: Silver Lake Library: The library next door: ...not completed on a huge budget (\$12 million) or at a huge scale (13,600 square feet). But it delivers on serious architectural impact nonetheless...has given the neighborhood an unmistakable, but not over-the-top, symbol to be proud of...prompting the city to be more ambitious in its architecture. -- M2A Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Building blocks: The country house seems unlikely to regain its status as the prime generator of British architectural invention...But a few architects are demonstrating how the country house can still surprise and delight... By Edwin Heathcote -- Edwin Lutyens; Norman Shaw; Baillie Scott; Paul + O Architects; Richard Hawkes; Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects; Robert Adam; Ushida Findlay; 6a- Financial Times (UK)

A New Pop-Up Concept: Design, Free, in SoHo: At the Popup Design Clinic, a half-dozen hotshot designers are offering their services free. -- PraxisNYC; Basil Walter Architects - New York Times

The Wright Stuff: A quick look at the Guggenheim Museum's new restaurant...For anyone who remembers its former manifestation...the new interior will seem like a major departure, and an appealing one at that. -- Andre Kikoski [images]- Metropolis Magazine

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Rocco Landesman congratulates NEA Design Director Maurice Cox on receiving the Edmund N. Bacon Prize: Cox to return to teaching at University of Virginia-Charlottesville -- Ed Bacon Foundation- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Roy Lichtenstein-Inspired, Seizure-Inducing Interiors [images]- Fast Company

Best Architecture Books of 2009: 10 crucial volumes from the classic to the iconoclastic. By Norman Weinstein -- Steven Holl; Le Corbusier; Jerry Yudelson; Álvaro Siza; Vincente Guallart; Calatrava; Bauhaus; etc.- ArchNewsNow

-- Gehry Partners, LLP: Novartis Campus, Basel, Switzerland

-- Construction start: MVRDV: Rotterdam Market Hall, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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